HARVARD UNIVERSITY
EAST ASIAN RESEARCH CENTER
ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE HALL

JOHN K. FAIRBANK, *Director*
ALBERT M. CRAIG, *Associate Director*
EZRA F. VOGEL, *Associate Director*

ROOM 301
1737 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE,
MASSACHUSETTS 02138

February 22, 1972

Mr. Irv Drasnin
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Irv:

Wilma and I are both extraordinarily enthusiastic about "Misunderstanding China". It is by all odds the best documentary that I have seen on the Sino-American relationship. Aside from the technical and dramatic excellence, the content of pulp fiction and motion pictures and Chinese treaty port foreigners was all superb. It strikes me as real history in the best sense, as close to the past as one can get, and if you are on the market, we would like a copy here for showing students educationally.

The commentary in particular seemed to me extremely well balanced and full of solid good sense and valuable perspective. I really congratulate you, and we are all in your debt.

Sincerely,

John K. Fairbank

JKF:cd

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear John:

A 16mm film print of "Misunderstanding China" is on its way to you.

I hope it looks as good the second time around.

All my best.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin

Mr. John K. Fairbank
East Asian Research Center
Harvard University
1737 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts
02138

March 22, 1972

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
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JOHN K. FAIRBANK, *Director*
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ROOM 301
1737 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE,
MASSACHUSETTS 02138

March 31, 1972

Mr. Irv Drasnin
CBS NEWS
524 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Irv:

Thank you very much indeed for the print of "Misunderstanding China". We very much appreciate this and shall look forward to showing it to students.

We regard it as a private gift for private showing only, not commercially. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

John K. Fairbank

JKF:cd

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear John:

I cannot imagine a more meaningful or gratifying response to the China broadcast than your most thoughtful and generous letter.

If indeed the film and narrative make good sense, then I hope you will take it as a relection of your success in educating all of us who have been drawn to the study of China.

I, and countless others, are of course in your debt. It would be but a small token of repayment to provide you with a print of the broadcast. It should be ready by March 20, about the time I expect to return from two weeks vacation. I'll see that it's promptly forwarded to you.

I sometimes have the good sense, when dumbstruck, not to say any more; except that of all the responses to the documentary, yours is the most rewarding and the most gratefully received.

My warmest regards to you and Mrs. Fairbank.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin
Producer

Mr. John K. Fairbank
East Asian Research Center
Harvard University
1737 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts
02138

March 2, 1972

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear John:

A 16mm film print of "Misunderstanding China" is on its way to you.

I hope it looks as good the second time around.

All my best.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin

Mr. John K. Fairbank
East Asian Research Center
Harvard University
1737 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts
02138

March 22, 1972

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear Professor Fairbank:

The China program which I discussed with you a few months ago is being broadcast on Sunday, February 20 from 6-7 p.m. EST. It is titled "Misunderstanding China."

What I feel most about it at the moment is sheer exhaustion. I suppose the most that can be hoped is that the generalizations I've made are closer to the truth than a lot of other generalizations about China that have been made by the media in the past.

In any case, should you have the time to see it I would be anxious to know your reaction. Whatever you think, I appreciated the time you took for our conversations and like everyone else trying to communicate about China I am indebted to you for whatever is right about the film.

Sincerely,

Irv Drasnin

Mr. John K. Fairbank
Department of East Asian Studies
1737 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

February 7, 1972

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL ON EAST ASIAN STUDIES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JOHN K. FAIRBANK, *Chairman*
EDWIN O. REISCHAUER, *Associate Chairman*

1737 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138
617-495-5722

Aug 31, 75

Mr. Irv Drasnin
CBS NEWS
35 West 45th Street- 5th floor
New York, New York 10036

Dear Irv:

It occurs to me that CBS needs to have on hand a documentary or the materials for one on Chou En-lai. I hope your experience about the Shanghai film has not made you a Sinic-cynic. Revolutions are naturally almost impossible to deal with.

Sincerely,

John K. Fairbank

JKF:bp

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JOHN K. FAIRBANK, *Chairman*
EDWIN O. REISCHAUER, *Associate Chairman*

1737 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138
617-495-5722

March 11, 1974

Mr. Irv Drasnin, Producer
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Irv:

I had the bad luck to get your letter about the March 8 broadcast only on March 10, having spent the evening of the 8th in a plane from Chicago to Washington. Is there any way that one can see such a show by special arrangement, or at some other time? I am much distressed to have missed it, and would like to know how I can catch up with the situation.

Sincerely,

John K. Fairbank

JKF:bp

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

JOHN KING FAIRBANK
Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History, Emeritus

1737 CAMBRIDGE ST., ROOM 316A
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138
PHONE (617) 495-5722

May 10, 1983

Mr. Irv Drasnin
Drasnin Productions, Inc.
180 East 79th St.
New York, NY 10021

Dear Irv:

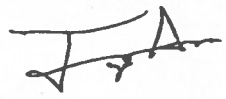
Fan mail. I wouldn't have changed a thing! What a superb combination of picture and sense!

Your "Searching for Mao" in its one hour conveys more of Chinese humanity and personality than any number of books could ever do. You are a master of the medium.

The contrast between the fanaticism of the crowd years ago and the somewhat perplexed straightforwardness of the individuals today came across very clearly. Ding Ling was excellent, as well as so many other touches all the way through. How can we nominate it for a prize?

Bill Hinton found his Long Bow peasants had a 100 acre cornfield completely mechanized and breaking all production records. But the orders came down to break it up so the field is broken up in small strips and mechanization is finished. What a disaster of uniformity!

Yours,



John K. Fairbank

JKF:jh